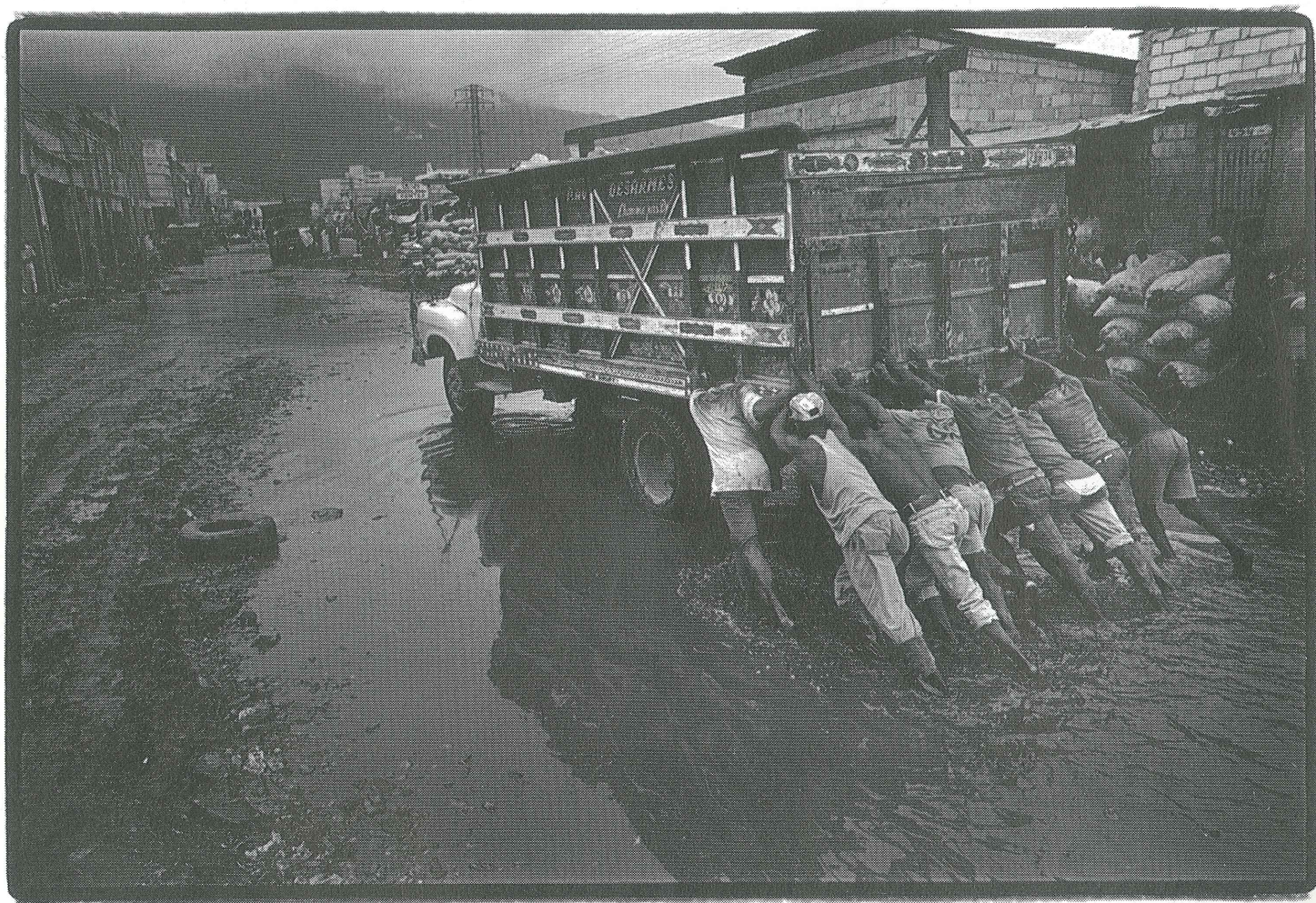


*The Haiti Support Group
in collaboration with the
October Gallery presents:*

The
HAiTi 
Support Group
SUPPLEMENT April/May 1995

Haiti: Photos Paintings Ironworks

27 April—17 June 1995



As well as paintings and ironworks by Haitian artists, the exhibition features photographs of Haiti by twenty international photojournalists, here previewed by *The Guardian's* Maggie O'Kane

Above: Flood in downtown Port-au-Prince, October 1994,
● Photo by Rob Huibers

"I was trying to photograph a body of a man who had been shot in the head and dumped on the streets and I felt someone tapping hard on my shoulder. I turned round and there was this old woman trying to sell me a thermos flask."

American photographer Michelle Frankfurter's experience of working in Haiti gives some insight into the brutal and crazy years between 1986 and 1995 when the work for this exhibition was produced.

Since 'Baby Doc' Duvalier's flight into

exile in France, there have been thousands of bodies to photograph in the street - the lady with the thermos flask has seen it all before.

The darkness of those years is captured in Alex Webb and Maggie Steber's brooding and saturated cibachromes, and Jerry Berndt's almost surreal reflections of the Haitian condition. But this is also an exhibition about life and sustaining it in a country that has been choking on terror and exhausted by poverty for generations.

There have been times in these years when Haiti's people did get the chance to breathe. The jubilant elections in 1990 when Aristide gained power have been recorded by Minotti Bucco and Marc French, whilst Aristide's strangely subdued return in October

1994 is portrayed in the photographs of a stunned nation pressed up against the bars of the Presidential Palace - not quite believing what they are seeing.

The real celebration of this exhibition is that it is happening. The days when fingers were waved at photographers like Maggie Steber by people who said they would remember her face are over. The sombre photographs reflecting the dark nights when no-one moved after nightfall are also past - for now.

This exhibition is a celebration of life and art. Haiti is still in danger. There are those within the country that wish to see its fragile rebirth into democracy ripped apart. Those are photographs that, hopefully, will never be taken.

The October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AL.
Tel: 0171 242 7367 ● Gallery opening hours: Tuesday—Saturday 12.30—5.30pm

'OUR HOUSE IN HAITI'

During Bishop Romelus of Jérémie's visit to the parish of St Margaret Mary's, Liverpool, in November last year, the Faith and Justice Group accepted a challenge—to raise £4000 to build a house for a woman in the Bishop's diocese. The woman, already the mother of six children, recently

'Beyond the mountain, another mountain'

gave birth to quads. The group named the project "Our house in Haiti" and approached all sections of the parish to assist.

Following successful runs in Cardiff and London this exhibition of photographs from Haiti will now tour around the country. The exhibition is raising money for a school in the small town of Limbe in northern Haiti.

All parishioners were asked to buy bricks at £5 each and over the next months a variety of fund-raising activities took place: women's and youth groups organised sponsored walks, the Brownies a "Bring and Buy" sale, the local Junior School a no-uniform day, and so on.

So far £9000 has been raised thanks to generous donations and much effort on behalf of participating parishioners. The Faith and Justice Group hope to close the appeal at £10,000. ■ *Contact Veronica McAllister, St Margaret Mary's, Pilch Lane, Liverpool L14 0JG.*

The exhibition comprises 75 large format photographs of Haiti and its people, accompanied by extensive text covering Haiti's history, politics, culture and religion.

Proceeds from the touring exhibition and the sale of souvenir photographs will go directly to support L'Ecole Bethseda, a primary school founded in 1986 by Francilien Paul in his home town of Limbe. Paul, who fled Haiti at the time of the 1991 coup and is at present living in Cardiff, hopes to raise £7,000 for the repair and upkeep of the school.

■ *For more details about the exhibition contact Phil Cope, photographer and coordinator of the Valley and Vale community arts team based near Cardiff, on 01656 871911.*

Haiti at the crossroads

As part of the programme Latin American Saturdays organised by The City Lit and the Latin America Bureau, the Haiti Support Group will host a day school, 'Haiti at the crossroads', on Saturday 20 May. After last year's US intervention and the return of President Aristide, members of the Haiti Support Group will discuss the prospects for genuine democracy and social justice. With video and slides.

The Venue: The City Lit, Stukeley Street, London WC2. Tel: 0171 242 9872

Course: Haiti at the crossroads. (SH1461)

Saturday 20 May 10.30—16.30. Fee £17.50 (£9.25 concessions)

Haiti films

at the Rio Cinema, London E8. Three films showing Haiti from different perspectives. Sunday 11 June.

● **Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti** - Maya Deren's surreal documentary film of Haiti's voodoo rituals and dances. (1951) 1.45pm

● **Haiti: Killing the Dream** - award-winning documentary about the Aristide phenomenon and the 1991 coup d'etat. "Emotionally gripping and politically profound" - Jonathan Demme. (1992) 2.50pm

● **The Man by the Shore (L'Homme sur les quais)** - Haitian director Raoul Peck's feature film is hard hitting and intense. The story of the tyrannical oppression of a community acutely conveys the atmosphere of Haiti during the Papa Doc Duvalier dictatorship. (1993) 4.00pm

Tickets: £4.50 (£3.50 concessions) ■ *Contact the Rio Cinema, 103 Kingsland High Street, London E8. Tel: 0171 254 6677*